BENGALURU, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2022 www.Bangaloremirror.com 16 Pages PRICE ₹4

Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 27 | Min 19 | Humidity 95% Generally cloudy sky Sensex 62,868 | Nifty 18,696 | Gold 53,286 | Silver 63,921 | Dollar 81.56 | Euro 85.31 | GBP 99.26

‘Land surface temperature in rural taluk goes up by 2 degrees Celsius after quadrupling of built-up area, 635.58% reduction of waterbodies’

SURFACE TENSION

‘LST increased from 27.2°C in 2001 to 29.3°C in 2019’

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Land Surface Temperature of a rural taluk in north Bengaluru has gone up by more than 2 degrees Celsius between 2000 and 2019, according to a study conducted by researchers from MS Ramaiah Institute of Technology.

The study revealed that the average LST of Doddaballapur taluk increased from 27.2 °C in 2001 to 29.3 °C in 2019.

“We conducted the temperature analysis using satellite imagery of January months of the area over the last two decades. The results showed that while the mean temperature in 2001 was 27.2 °C, it went up to 28 °C in 2010 and reached 29.3 °C in 2019. The area has also recorded considerable fluctuations in cold and hot weather conditions,” said Dr Lakkur Gurunarayan Santhosh, faculty, department of civil engineering

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

Road work under progress from Doddaballapur to Hoskote

“LST is found to be lower in areas with considerable vegetation cover and waterbodies compared to those with dry terrain...

— Dr Lakkur Gurunarayan Santhosh, faculty, MSRIT

Watch this space

Second revised tender for smart parking solutions in 8 zones

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike has called a second tender for setting up smart parking systems in Bengaluru. After failing to draw any bidders for the first tender, the civic body has made minor tweaks to the new tender.

The new parking system — implemented by BBMP under the recommendation of Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) — is expected to solve the parking issues in the city. The new Smart Parking system is being planned by the civic body for all eight zones.

The BBMP was unable to get bidders for the first tender issued in September 2022. Now, the second tender has been called for design, build, finance, operation and transfer (DBFOT) smart parking solutions for on-street parking spaces in BBMP limits under the Public Private partnership (PPP) model.

The bidder will be required to operate under a DBFOT basis for a period of 10 years. BBMP has called for a national bid for the implementation of the smart parking system in Yelahanka, South, RR Nagar, East, Mahadevapura, Dasarahalli, and Bommanahalli zones.

“We have called for a second tender for the smart parking management system with a few changes. Previously, we had asked for five years of experience in the field; we have reduced it to three years of experience. We have made the concession considering the stagnant period during covid. We have also reduced the Earnest

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Craft of guitar

Global Guitar Gita is a 22-year-old concert series featuring masters of guitar from around the world and hosted by legendary Bengaluru guitarist, Konarak Reddy. The festival will include All India FingerStyle Competition Finals, Guest Guitarist: Shashank Verma (Bhopal) and grand finale concert by guitar masters - Antoine Boyer, Samuelito, Julia Lange and Konarak Reddy. The idea is to invite the best guitarists from the world over to come and share their mastery of their craft and their individual styles and techniques with Bengaluru audiences, in an intimate environment.
Where: Windmills, Whitefield
When: December 3, 9:30 pm onwards
Tickets: https://windmills-india.com/#music

02 Surreal scenes

Time and Space Gallery presents "It's a Way of Life" by Afza Tamkanat & Fawad Tamkanat. The father daughter duo has been trailblazing the art scene for many years, both individually as well as a team. The current exhibition includes well known works of theirs like the Window and Sparrow Series by Afza Tamkanat - early morning morsels of scenes capturing birds chirping by a window - and The Cityscapes Series by Fawad Tamkanat – a surreal encapsulation of the colourful chaos that whelms the city of Hyderabad. **Where: Time and Space Gallery, Lavelle Road; When: Till December 10, 11 am – 6.30 pm; Info: 080 4218 4116 /7760394808 /9035451852**

03 A musical evening

Participate in an evening of music at Lahe Lahe. Come along and be part of this session of two amazing singers/ bands from Bangalore and get mesmerised with their music. This will be followed by an open mic where 10 people from the audience get to perform for 3 minutes each.
Where: Lahe Lahe, Indiranagar
When: December 4, 6-8 pm

It's time to smash the stigma, we're here too

Differently abled citizens highlight the need to make public spaces accessible, friendly to their needs

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A thought-provoking art installation greeted hundreds of walkers at Lalbagh Botanical Garden on Friday as they interacted with people with disabilities as part of a special awareness drive.

The differently abled citizens highlighted the need of making public spaces disabled friendly. Many even pointed out how most of the workplaces have been lacking a basic ramp for wheelchair access.

The installation was by sculptor Shafeeque Punathil, featuring real disability aids such as wheelchairs, prosthetics, and crutches. The installation illustrated how society views people with disabilities and the stigma surrounding it.

The awareness drive was by the Association of People with Disability (APD), a Bengaluru-based NGO empowering differently abled people from underprivileged backgrounds, to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. The event took place ahead of International Day of Persons with Disabilities that is observed globally on December 3.

This was a part of the organisation's larger #RightToBeSeen initiative, which brings to light the right of every Person with Disability, giving them the opportunity to lead a full, productive, and independent life.

"When it comes to accessibility in India, it is a bit difficult compared to life in other countries. The State Government and Union Government must focus on making public spaces more accessible, with ramps and accessible public toilets, not only for people with disabilities but also for senior citizens," said Dr Rajalakshmi, a wheelchair-bound orthodontist.

Ramya HM, Representative of the Association of People with Disability said, "Accessibility has always been a challenge for me, on a daily basis. But I want to overcome these challenges by growing public accessibility and would wish for the government to raise more awareness around and initiate government-sponsored initiatives for individuals with disabilities."

The event featured softboards with simple yes or no questions in English, Kannada, and Braille, making people reassess how much they think about disability on a day-to-day basis. Questions such as "Do you have any colleagues or classmates with a disability?" and "Does your workplace have a ramp for wheelchair access?" saw large numbers of people answering in the negative, proving the urgent need for more action-oriented solutions.

An art installation by sculptor Shafeeque Punathil illustrated the prejudices against people with disabilities

Senthil NS Kumar, CEO, The Association of People with Disability (APD), shared that organising such an interactive event gave us an opportunity to not only promote accessibility awareness around public spaces but also sensitise the public on disability issues and build an ecosystem of equality.

"Our shared goal of reinforcing the #RightToBeSeen for every person with a disability to live an independent and respectful life remains a top priority. We were pleased to see the number of people who rethought their perceptions on disability and demonstrated a desire to seek immediate action-oriented alternatives," he said.

To build further awareness around the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, APD is organising a local walkathon to build awareness among Bengalureans, apart from a garden sale, where people can buy plants that have been grown by gardeners with disabilities.

Bengaluru, are you ready for the echoes of earth?

With Echoes of Earth just a countdown away, here's what you can expect from this sustainable music festival.

While the musical fest will bring to you over 20 homegrown and sustainable brands across fashion, accessories, decor, jewellery, and more at their flea market, the food market will host around 30 food stalls with an inclusive and wide range of delectables to tickle your taste buds.

There will be a Sunday brunch, where you get to sample the best of cuisines and beverages, mingle, have a musical conversation, feast and make merry.

Staying true to being one of the greenest fests in the country, Echoes of Earth ensures waste is recycled and reused tactfully and aesthetically. Be ready to witness a spectacular display of 20 larger-than-life installations made out of 100% upcycled materials from past editions.

Says Roshan Netalkar, Festival Director of Echoes of Earth, "We live in a day and age where being environmentally conscious is a part of our day-to-day living. The need of the hour is now to switch to a lifestyle lived in moderation and conserve our natural resources and see how we can give new life to what we discard. Echoes of Earth has always innovated on how differently we can scale up to celebrate nature. We are working towards becoming a zero-waste, carbon neutral festival in the near future. We are also incorporating circular design in our festival this year. Our installations are created from 100 per cent recyclable materials. Similarly, when it comes to music, we've always brought together global cultures on a single platform and line-up this year paves way for a diverse, conscious and culturally inclusive space."

This year, the festival is hosting an eclectic mix of international and Indian artists. This translates into multiple music genres like electronic, soul, world fusion, jazz, techno, blues, reggae, rock, live electronica and more. The repertoire of artists and bands performing at this year's festival includes The Yussef Dayes Experience, Henry Saiz & Band present Moonlight Wolves, Vieux Farka Toure, Anyasa, Humankind and more. Echoes of Earth will be held at the Embassy Riding School on December 3 and 4. **— BMB**

Police want bikers to stay off E-City flyover

Cops plan to reach out to BETL to request there be a ban on two-wheelers on expressway

A large chunk of the commuters on E-City expressway is two-wheeler riders

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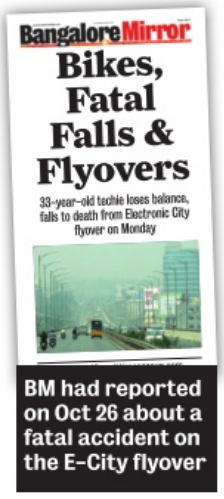
With back-to-back bike accidents on Electronics City expressway, the police want bikers to be kept off the city's longest flyover. Police are now planning to reach out to the Bangalore Elevated Tollway Private Limited (BETL) which manages the 10-km long expressway stretch.

A senior police official told Bangalore Mirror, "During our recent meeting, we have decided to approach the BETL to ban bikes. Bikers are vulnerable to accidents on this highway and we have seen a number of deaths too. So, as a safety measure we want the ban on bikes. A few years back, we had written to the authorities but no efforts were made since then. So, now we have decided to approach them again."


BangaloreMirror
Bikes, Fatal Falls & Flyovers
33-year-old techie loses balance, falls to death from Electronic City flyover on Monday

BM had reported on Oct 26 about a fatal accident on the E-City flyover

However, sources say that it is up to NHAI and BETL to take a call as banning bikes may mean losing their revenue.

Currently, the Electronics City expressway is the only flyover where bikers need to pay a toll to use the flyover as bikers have a free ride elsewhere (Airport, Mysuru and Tumakuru roads). Currently, a sizable chunk of the elevated expressway users are two-wheeler riders. With many returning to offices, people have started using their bikes to reach offices in Electronic City and they prefer to use the expressway as they can cover the distance in around 10 km as against getting stuck in traffic if they use the road beneath the flyover due to multiple traffic junctions.

If bikers are banned, then BETL will have to depend on cars and other users for toll (as NICE Road caters to the trucks and vehicles from outside that don't get on to the flyover).

> **"If you look at the past accidents, a majority have taken place due to cars/other vehicles hitting bikes and the biker falling off from the flyover**
>
> –A police officer

Another police officer said that during the previous flyover accidents, the city police had asked the concessionaires to have proper surveillance mechanisms equipped with CCTVs. The police had suggested strict patrolling so that no one stops on lay-by for 'sight seeing' as lay-byes are meant for parking vehicles in case of a vehicle breakdown.

The police had also suggested that the personnel should constantly monitor the stretch via CCTV and then issue warnings against parking on the highway on loudspeaker. However, these measures are yet to fall in place. A senior police official said, "Currently, bikes tend to speed on the highway. However, as the road width is just 6.5 metres, many cars or other vehicles tend to speed here too. If you look at the past accidents, a majority have taken place due to the cars/other vehicles hitting the bikes and the biker falling off from the flyover to his death. Even if you increase the wall's height, it would not be of much help."

According to the officer, there can be measures to cut down the speed, but as of now an interceptor can be placed only at a lay-by which is at the middle of the flyover. "However, as the interceptor position is fixed (unlike other roads where the police keep changing the locations so that the vehicles are not accustomed to seeing the interceptor at the same place every day) as it can be parked only at the lay bye, the vehicles know very well where to slow down and then speed up. Unlike the Mumbai-Pune expressway, there are no AI-enabled cameras to keep a tab on the speed of the vehicles and penalise those over speeding," he said.

'Unfair marks' furore at RGUHS

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MBBS students from the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences protested against the university authorities citing 'unfair valuation' in the examination on Thursday. The university has a system, according to which, valuation is done by two evaluators and the average of both the scores is taken into consideration. If the difference between the two scores exceeds 15, then the paper is sent for a third-person evaluation.

Students who had retaken their MBBS exams from batches 2019-20 and 2020-21 claimed that there were many discrepancies in the two evaluations. "It is a scientific paper so the scores should not differ so much. But for many, they differ greatly. If it was just for one or two marks, we wouldn't have made it an issue but it is about getting zero marks for a correct answer," said Ananya, a student. Students alleged that over 300 students have been affected by erratic evaluation and some have failed.

Now the students are demanding that the university use the new method of evaluation that was to be introduced in this academic session. The new method means that instead of an average, the higher score given by the two valuators was taken as the final result.

"We urged the authorities to use the new methods but they said that since there are so many students, re-computing is not feasible. The students then approached the high court which announced that the higher score must be considered. But the university is still not taking any action," said a student.

The registrar evaluation of RGUHS, Dr. Ramakrishna Reddy, said that the university will appeal in court regarding the issue and that other authorities including the vice-chancellor, registrar, syndicate panel, and senate body will be involved to try to resolve the issue at the earliest.

Bag saga: Bans, counselling, sex education suggested

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After contraceptives, cigarettes and other items were found in some students' school bags in the city, the State child rights committee has urged the drug control board to stop medical stores from providing minors with some items.

The Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) issued a suo motu notice to the Drugs Control Department demanding that the department to direct all the medical stores in the state not to sell such items to people below 18 years of age. Additionally, the commission demanded that legal action be taken against the medical store that continue to do so.

The committee has demanded the drugs control department to take necessary actions and submit a report within a week, informed the KSCPCR chairperson Naganna Gowda.

Moreover, the committee also issued a notice to the Department of Public Instruction to direct the field education officers to survey the schools where the incident has taken place and demanded that necessary policies be made by the schools in order to avoid these incidents in future.

The committee also stressed that the students should not be suspended but should be given counselling in school or personally.

On the other hand, the NGO Child Rights Trust will be conducting an online session in collaboration with the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) and school managements about how to effectively manage these situations on campus.

Contents of school bags are hot topics of discussion in the city

"The school management is also unsure about how to manage these situations. If the scold the children, it would not be apt. The child should not be made to feel like a culprit. So next week, we will be conducting online session with help of NIMHANS regarding how to educate the children and what vocabulary should be used, etc... It is also necessary that all the schools have a counsellor," said Nagasimha G Rao, director, child rights trust.

'Sex education necessary'

Since the incident came to lights, parents and experts have stressed on the need to introduce sex education to school curriculums.

"Even if it makes us uncomfortable, we have to accept the fact that children today have exposure to every kind of information and media on the internet and television. So, the situation is not the same as it was a decade ago. Because there is a taboo, teenagers want to explore it even more."

"Now it is better that they learn about safe sex, STDs, etc at school in a healthy informative way instead of learning it through peers or online. This will only promote healthy lifestyle and remove the taboo around the whole topic for children," said Kalpana, a parent.

> **Child Rights Panel writes to Drug Control Dept to ban sale of some items to minors; ask dept to submit a report in one week**

RAJMOHAN SUDHAKAR

EVER CHANGING MOODS

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Invasive rhetoric

The power of virtue and tragedy of vices come into clear view as humanity flounders for direction in almost all earthly spheres. Democracy declines no doubt, in the plateauing ineptitude of corrupt politicians and the subsequent vacuum of critical sociopolitical discourse, now being held at knifepoint by the pliant press and social media diatribe.

Why the repeated stress on the role of pliant press/social media you ask: only when the social discourse breaks free from the shackles of the nefarious digital echo chamber and peddled news shall that seminal course-correction can begin.

The emergent discourse thereafter shall salvage the planet from the precipice of the wretched post-colonial, post-industrial polluted ecosystem we are traversing now, and safeguard the future of humanity, as envisaged by young climate activists and movements such as the Extinction Rebellion or Just Stop Oil, that hold big oil and big tech responsible for the unravelling chaos.

That said, the current sociopolitical milieu favours the few and disenfranchises the many, like climate change-triggered global heating and erratic weather displace entire species and vulnerable human settlements; the pacific islands at the frontlines of the climate crisis, for example. In the meantime, opportunist sharks begin to circle while others sink to the depths.

Invasive entities take over like a locust swarm. In the human realm, this is revealed in the invasion of a society when one violates another's fundamental right as a citizen enshrined in the constitution.

An invasion of this diabolic cunning manifests when organic channels of social communication and critique in the world's largest democracy are caught up in the grimhold of fear and divisive propaganda — this fear and propaganda gain currency at the hands of big businesses cosying up to the executive and vice versa; electoral bonds are a case in point.

Here I digress to recall three news stories that held my attention recently — one is of cockatoos running rowdy all over an Australian neighbourhood knocking pots and pans over at homes, taking over wayside cafes and bullying resident cats; another is a report on invasive vines, one brought along by American soldiers for using it as camouflage in combat long ago, now creeping up all over a Fijian island, swallowing other flora.

The third story was about Indonesia putting up about 100 islands of its remote eco-sensitive archipelago for auction in New York — yes, for development by private bidders, amid environmental and local community concerns.

"...one of the most intact coral atoll ecosystems left on Earth and an animal kingdom of epic proportions, home to hundreds of rare and endangered species, among them blue whales, whale sharks and species yet to be discovered," the Guardian quoted a Sotheby's representative.

All three stories are the aftermath of invasive opportunists staking claim as prevailing economy, species, ideas and ethos turn vulnerable or are forced into dormancy by the weight of the neoliberal wrecking ball — either by sheer chance, current dynamics, or as we see in India, when those who must take cognisance and act against social atrocities choose to remain silent and look the other way as these atrocities surely do not threaten their comfort zones.

One could also view the aforementioned as evolution spreading its tentacles gobbling up the vulnerable — surely a certain fact, but from a humanist perspective, this is blatant bullying in the absence of protest or challenge whatsoever: apparently we are yet to figure out a 'thod' (remedy) for this conundrum eating us alive in India.

Consider the trajectory of political rhetoric in the country at the moment. Sans criticism nor much needed reining in of roguish tendencies by constitutional mechanisms, the rhetoric has gone berserk and settled at absurd tangents. When the country's home minister says 'a lesson was taught in 2002', what must the ordinary citizen glean?

The election commission, instead of taking note of the tremendous advances in digital communication, its probable aftermath in electioneering and sway on the electorate nevertheless, has shrunk in subservience to a mere logistics partner as key assembly polls get underway.

At the International Film Festival of India, the ghost of a tragedy is summoned through a so-called film only to be termed 'propagandist and vulgar' by a member of the jury — the outrage that followed was missing in this great nation when rape convicts were released and garlanded elsewhere.

'Daro mat', says the opposition leader, Rahul Gandhi, now leading the Bharat Jodo Yatra, journeying through the length of this nation 'to heal wounds and wipe tears' of exhaustion as opinion leaders across social strata join in to raise voice against festering hatred, rising unemployment, inflation, social inequities and such in unison — something the political pundits and commentators of mainstream media comfortably choose to ignore. Surely, the Yatra is shaping up to be the counter offensive, or the 'thod' if you like, to this invasive rhetoric gnawing at the foundations of the republic.

Lake damages: State govt proposes & NGT disposes

Appeal for change in ₹500 cr as damages for polluted Chandapura Lake quashed

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The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has quashed Karnataka's recent appeal asking for relief in depositing the compensation amount of Rs 500 crore for its failure in controlling pollution in and around Chandapura Lake in Anekal.

The green court, in its order dated October 10, had directed the State to pay an environmental compensation of Rs 500 crore for not maintaining the water body. The tribunal had observed that the huge damage caused to the lake is due to the inaction of the authorities.

Post that, an application was filed by the State for modification of the order. The application mentioned that the state authorities will require three to four years to take remedial measures which will not justify the direction to deposit the amount of Rs. 500 crore immediately as the amount is to be spent over time.

However, the tribunal has dismissed the plea stating that the compensation liability may have to be fixed separately for any further delay.

"We do not find any merit in the application. The massive failure of the State authorities has been noticed earlier which is not only violative of the statutory mandate but also of timelines laid down in the binding judgment. In the said matter, after interaction with the chief secretary, Karnataka, the tribunal found that the State was non-compliant with the judgment of the Supreme Court which had resulted in a huge loss to the environment and public health for which the State was accountable on polluter pay principle," noted the principal bench of NGT.

NGT had penalised State for not maintaining Chandapura Lake

The green court, before passing the order in October, had considered the factual aspects of the report by the joint committee comprising Central Pollution Control Board, State pollution control board, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority of Karnataka, National Wetland Committee, State Wetland Authority and the district magistrate of Bengaluru.

The order also considered the reports prepared by the Karnataka chief secretary Vandita Sharma and Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board on the Chandapura lake catchment area.

According to these reports, the deterioration of the water quality of Chandapura Lake is due to the discharge of untreated and treated sewage from the surrounding area and industrial effluent discharge from upstream of Kachanayakanahalli Lake. Rapid encroachment is yet another reason cited for the deteriorating health of the water body.

> **"The massive failure of State authorities has been noticed earlier which is not only violative of the statutory mandate but also of timelines**

The NGT had also allowed the State to recover the amount of compensation from violators including industries, encroachers and erring officers.

Fish left gasping in Agara Lake

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Horamavu residents have pointed out that the Agara lake is in a terrible condition. Apart from the stench in the area, recently some residents also spotted dead fish in the lake.

Sathyanarayan K, a resident of the area, said, "A very bad smell has been coming from the lake. Now, dead fish are floating on the lake's surface. The lake is not well maintained at all. To save this lake, immediate action must be taken."

The residents reported that sewage from nearby areas enters the lake. Sanjana Mehta, who stays nearby, said, "The quality of the lake's water is visibly poor. If entry of sewage is not arrested, all the fish in the lake will die." Some said that even people visiting the lake throw garbage into it. Ritika Rana, another resident, said, "People think if the lake is already dirty, it is okay to throw garbage in it. I have seen people throwing packets and plastic bottles on the premises, further dirtying the area."

Some dead fish were also seen floating on the Agara Lake surface

Mallikarjun J, another resident of the area said that the dirty water from the lake also overflows into the roads nearby causing inconvenience to commuters too.

Abhijith Annirudh, an environmentalist, said the sewage increases the nutrient content in the water which encourages the growth of algae. "Algae takes up all of the dissolved oxygen in the water leaving none for the fishes as a result of which the fishes die and some also come up on the surface of the water to get oxygen. If nothing is done about the sewage, there will be no fishes left in the waterbody," he warned.

Pup to trap leopard? No, say activists

Using a puppy as live bait to lure an animal is cruel and against animal welfare laws, say wildlife activists

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Activists and wildlife conservationists have expressed displeasure over the use of a puppy as live bait to lure the big cats that were sighted on the city's fringes lately. Researchers and animal law practitioners say the practice of using live bait is against the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and the Karnataka Forest Department should resort to less vicious ways to catch the wild cats.

"I was surprised when I got to know that a small puppy has been forced into a trap cage and is being used as live bait to lure the leopard. Section 11 of the PCA act prohibits this or any other form of cruelty to animals. The forest department officials were not supposed to put life there," said Ramesh Belagere, wildlife researcher, Foundation for Ecology and Education Development.

However, Forest Department officials have clarified that the bait has been kept in a separate cage as per the norms and no physical harm will be inflicted upon the animal.

"The dog is kept inside a small enclosure and even though the leopard might get attracted to it, the big cat cannot reach the animal. The animal is safe and will be released soon," said a senior official from Karnataka Forest Department.

However, activists and animal law practitioners have expressed their dissatisfaction. They say the PCA act is criminal legislation. Ideally, a case should be registered, an investigation must be held, the prosecution must follow;

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

> **There are many other options that the Forest Department could have resorted to instead of this**
>
> – Shreya Paropkari, an advocate

"This is an incredibly cruel option. Whatever the facts and circumstances might be, the use of live animals is prohibited under the law. There are many other options that the department could have resorted to. All this while, the animal knows that it is trapped and must be overwhelmed with the feeling of fear and dread. Ideally, a case should be registered, an investigation must be held, the prosecution must follow; unless the department officials enjoy immunity from the law," said Shreya Paropkari, an advocate who practices animal law.

Nevertheless, some experts said that while using live bait is against the provisions of the Act, a sensitive situation like this calls for extreme steps.

"The entire ecosystem is sensitive, given that there has been an attack and a person lost their life in Mysuru. In its truer sense, it is against the provisions to use a dog as bait. But given the situation, it could be more detrimental to more animals if the cats are not caught and relocated. There is a chance that people might poison the leopards by lacing meat with poison or by poisoning the waterbody," said a wildlife expert on the condition of anonymity.

According to sources, the Forest Department is also running out of ways in managing such situations rapidly. Which probably is why they have resorted to using live bait.

"Leopards or any other carnivorous get attracted when a live animal is calling out. In the past, the department has tried using various perfumes to attract the big cats. While multiple measures have been tried, this is the one with a relatively high percentage of success," said the source.

Elusive cat in town: Public places go empty

Parts of B'luru empty after news of leopard sightings

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From wedding halls to temples and from schools to roads, many parts of the city wore a deserted look on Friday, thanks to an elusive leopard on the prowl.

At Mahalakshmi Temple, Dasegowdana Palya, Kengeri, Fridays see maximum number of devotees turning up to offer prayers. But this Friday, the situation was different due to the many rumours circulating. An administrator said that less than 25 per cent of devotees turned up. There are rumours about four to five leopards in the vicinity. "The panic is keeping the people from venturing out of home."

Nanjappa, another resident of the area said, "Today, I saw that there were hardly any people at a wedding hall in the village bordering the forest as people are scared to venture out. We were told that the bride's family was expecting more than 2,000 visitors. We are told that 30 varieties of food were prepared but all gone to waste."

A school teacher said that only two children came to school as their parents dropped them off. However, other parents said that they will not send their wards to school until the leopard is rescued.

Even walkers are scared. Suresh S, a regular walker said, "The Turahalli forest road connects Kodipalya and BDA layout. We used to walk around from 5.30 am. Now, we are scared to venture out."

A shopkeeper from Jakkegowdanapalya said, "We used to remain open till 10 pm but now we are shutting the shop by 6 PM itself."

Another shopkeeper said that even though he was keeping his shop open, there were hardly any customers and his business was hit.

Bengaluru Urban Deputy Conservator of Forest (DCF) SS Ravishankar said that since the leopard could not carry its catch, it left the carcass. This is a natural process where a leopard attacks its prey. The leopard has been around Turahalli forest for some time. However, till now, they have not got any reports of leopards attacking human beings.

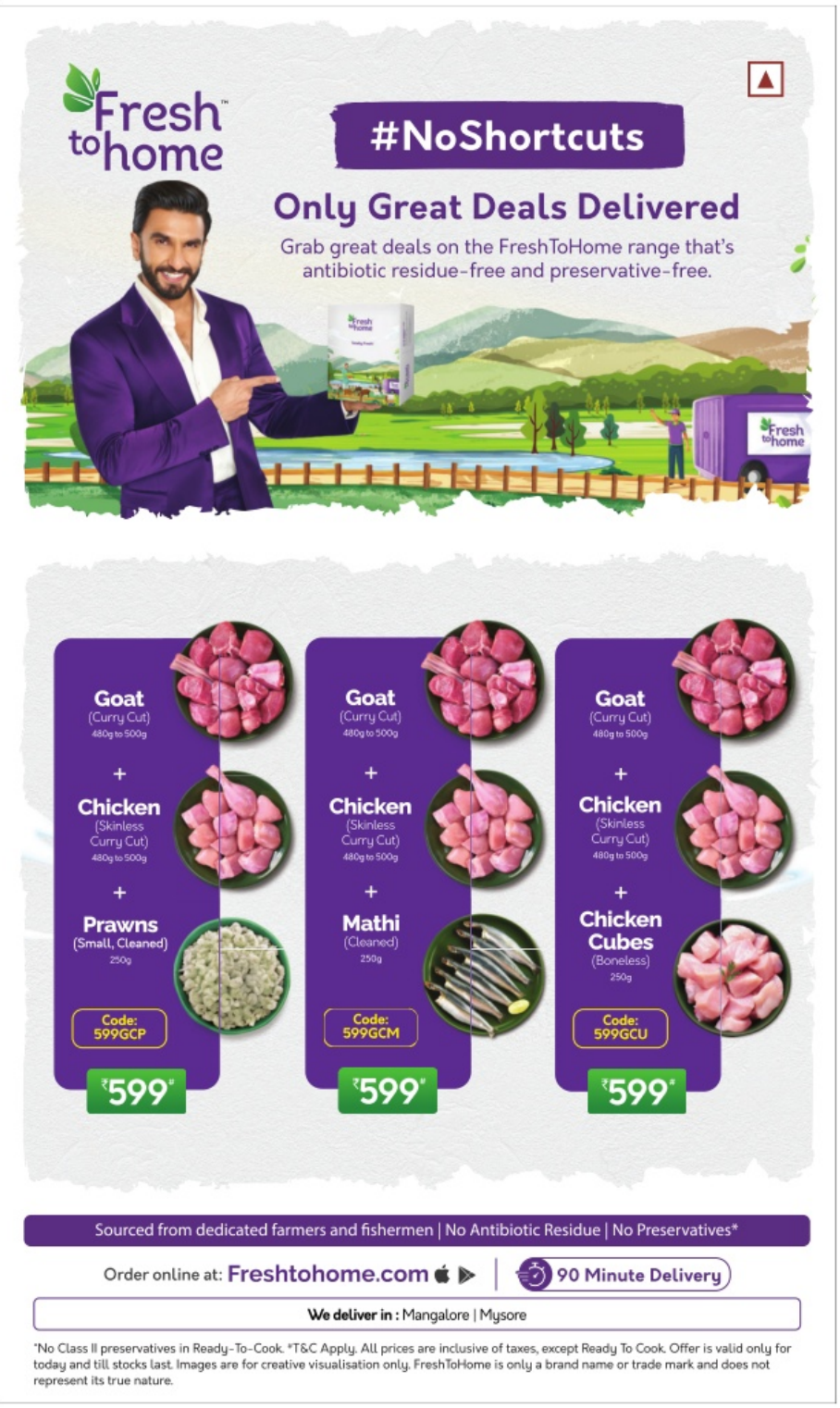
"No one should walk alone in the forest area during early mornings and evenings. People should travel in groups. This is the first time a leopard has been spotted at Turahalli in the recent past and we suspect that the leopard might be in its natural habitat inside the forest. We expect the search operations to continue for a week at least," he said.

Another forest personnel told Mirror that they have kept pugmarks at two or three places.

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

Roads, schools, temples wear deserted look

> **We expect the search operations to continue for a week at least**
>
> - SS Ravishankar, Bengaluru Urban Deputy Conservator of Forest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For affordable plots in Bengaluru, 'dream homes' amid greenery, look no further

Hesaraghatta's time to shine

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Hesaraghatta is turning out to be a dream destination for buying affordable property in Bengaluru. For instance, there are many options to choose from where the starting prices of properties are as economical as Rs 5 lakh. Property developers say that with a number of infrastructure projects being taken up in Bengaluru North, people are planning to invest in and around this area.

There is a plan to construct a Peripheral Ring Road that will cut across Hesaraghatta Road. Added to this, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is constructing a four-laned road which will make Hesaraghatta a realty hotspot. A big selling point for Hesaraghatta is its greenery. For city dwellers wanting to wake up to that every day, it is a great option. "This is the reason why people want to move out of CBD areas. Many places in those areas don't offer scope for expansion, but Hesaraghatta Road is the place offering everything," said a property developer.

Office space increase: B'luru beats Pune

Meanwhile, Bengaluru has beaten Pune when it comes to an increase in office space. While both cities remain the top commercial office destinations for IT-ITeS and co-working occupiers, Bengaluru has overtaken Pune in overall office space activity. ANAROCK's India Office Market Update H1 FY23 indicates that with approximately 6.1 million sq ft of new office completions and about 6.08 million sq ft office absorption, Bengaluru has been far ahead of Pune.

During the period, Pune saw a mere 0.85 million sq ft of new office completions and about 1.35 million sq ft of office space absorption in H1 FY23.

"However, Pune is ahead of its IT counterpart as far as office vacancy levels are concerned," says Prashant Thakur, Senior Director - Research, ANAROCK Group.

"At 7.8 per cent, Pune's office vacancy rate is the lowest amongst all top seven cities, including Bengaluru which had an office vacancy of 10.9 per cent in H1 FY23. Both cities recorded similar yearly growth of 6 per cent in average monthly office rentals," he said.

Both cities have seen the IT-ITeS sectors dominating office space demand over the last decade, but Bengaluru has stood its ground despite past office demand slowdowns, including during the pandemic. It remains the country's most active office market with about 6.08 million sq ft net absorption in H1 FY23 - the highest recorded in the city over the last six years.

"Going forward, in the backdrop of a possible recession in the US in early 2023, it will be interesting to see how far these two cities' office markets will be impacted," said Thakur.

"There is considerable uncertainty in many global economies, including Europe and the US, as they battle high inflation," he added.

— Prakash VL

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Will Ejipura flyover ever be completed?

Citizens complain that work on this structure has been ongoing for almost five years now

Shreyashi Mukherjee
c-shreyashi.m@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Commuters are upset over the unfinished state of Ejipura flyover. They say that roads have become narrow as a result of this, causing rampant congestion in the area.

Raman Kumar, a commuter, said, "This work has been going on for almost five years and is still not close to being complete. It gets very difficult to use this road because we get stuck in traffic for long hours. Because of the unfinished work, the road has become narrow, causing all this congestion. Something has to be done about it immediately."

Commuters and residents in the area complained that officials have not even paid visits to the site.

Akhil Vinayak, a commuter, said, "I have been seeing this construction taking place for a long time now, but I have never seen any Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) official come to the area. They have been saying for the last few years that the work will be completed soon, but nothing has been done. Ultimately, it is we who will be suffering the most."

Ejipura flyover construction work; commuters frequently complain about congestion in the area

> **"The BBMP cites problems between them and the contractor as the cause for delay, but it is their responsibility to come up with alternatives**
> –Priyanka Ramesh, resident

Priyanka Ramesh, a resident staying nearby, said, "The BBMP cites problems between them and the contractor as the cause for delay, but it is their responsibility to come up with alternatives and complete the work as soon as they can rather than keep it unfinished for so many years. I am certain it will take several more years for this flyover to be constructed."

Some of the commuters even share the view that there is no need for the flyover.

Praveen Swamy, one such commuter, told Bangalore Mirror that before the construction started, people were commuting without facing traffic issues.

However, once the construction began, people started to face such problems. He said that the authorities started work with no effort to complete it, and the number of vehicles plying on the road have also gone up, causing more traffic every day.

Commuters said that it has been taking them approximately 30 minutes to cross the road after construction work for the flyover commenced, which is adding to their inconveniences.

Vinayak G Sugoor, Chief Engineer, Central Project, BBMP, said, "The work has been halted because of an issue with the contractor, Simplex Infrastructure Limited. We are now in the tendering process, which will take another month. After that, the work will be completed within the next 11 or 12 months."

Bangalore Mirror

From flyover project to garbage dump

Find a new spot to litter? How about under-construction Ejipura Flyover?

BM's report on June 26, 2022 spoke about the area becoming a hotspot for garbage dumping

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Unchecked dumping

AGS Layout

A few stretches in AGS Layout, Banashankari 3rd stage have turned out to be a dumpyard.

Pothole problems

Kasavanahalli

Near Ushodaya apartment in Kasavanahalli, the roads are terrible and full of potholes.

Smart Parking: second tender

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Money Deposit (EMD) amount. There were no bidders for the first tender," executive engineer at BBMP-TEC division, Jayasimha told BM.

Smart Parking

"As per the smart parking system, when vehicle owners come to the parking lot, the display will show the parking space availability. Once they enter, the sensor will record the start and end time. Owners can pay the amount using a card or other payment methods. The whole process will be nearly fully automated," Jayasimha explained.

The project is being implemented by BBMP under the recommendations of DULT. The new smart parking system is in response to the new Parking Policy 2.0 prepared by DULT to reduce unpaid parking on streets.

The measure is expected to reduce unaccounted parking on roads leading to traffic bottlenecks and congestion. The pricing for the parking system is expected to be varying on different categories and not based on vehicles.

The Palike has classified parking spots into categories A, B and C. In the case of vehicle owners parking in front of their houses, they will have to procure an annual permit. A major issue raised by those parking their vehicles illegally is the non-availability of adequate parking spaces.

2 degree rise in surface temperature

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and Centre forImage Technologies, MSRIT.

The study titled 'Assessment of LULC change dynamics and its relationship with LST and spectral indices in a rural area of Bengaluru district, Karnataka India' has recently been published in Remote Sensing Applications: Society and Environment journal.

According to the researchers, this surge in surface temperature can be attributed to the rise in the built-up area and a dramatic drop in the area covered by water.

As per the study, while the total built-up area in Doddaballapur taluk in 2001 was 21.2 sq km, it went up to 41.3 sq km in 2010 and further increased to 86.7 sq km in 2019.

While the proportion of concrete surfaces increased significantly over the last two decades, the area under surface water resources such as lakes and ponds plummeted. While the region had 17 sq km of its total area covered under waterbodies in 2001, it went down to 2.3 sq km and 2.1 sq km in 2010 and 2019 respectively.

"LST is found to be lower in areas with considerable vegetation cover and waterbodies compared to those with dry terrain such as barren, uncultivated, built-up, and rocky areas. Our results showed that while the area under built-up, crop, and shrubland increased in the taluk, the area covered by waterbodies reduced significantly, leading to an increase in LST. We registered a staggering 635.58% reduction in lakes and ponds in the area," Dr Santhosh told BM.

Experts said rural areas in the surroundings of metropolitan cities such as Bengaluru have undergone substantial development, resulting in changes in land use and land cover (LULC) patterns: This has impacted hydrological processes alongside climate change. Therefore, analysing such changes is critical for decision-making and sustainable development.

According to Devanahalli Nagaraj Shilpa, co-author of the study and faculty at MSRIT, the study was conducted to explore the impact of urbanisation and industrialisation in Doddaballapur taluk on land use and land cover change dynamics of the area.

"The region forms a part of the Arkavathi river basin. Moreover, many waterbodies have vanished over time; we wanted to estimate this loss. Vanishing waterbodies lead to further changes in land use and land cover patterns, which can further lead to even bigger variations in the surface temperature of the area. The loss of waterbodies proves that the region is prone to drought and has a serious paucity of water resources," said Shilpa.

Researchers said the area has witnessed the settlement of industries at a large scale leading to an influx of people in search of employment and livelihood. This coupled with the absence of surface water can lead to a water crisis in the area.

"In absence of adequate surface water, there is a chance of excess withdrawal of groundwater resources. The need of the hour is to carry out a detailed study of the area and implement solutions after strategic planning. The authorities should look at maintaining stormwater drains in the area and figure out the reasons behind the disappearance of waterbodies at such a high rate," added Dr Santhosh.

Green signal for Nelamangala

With BMRCL set to expand Green line till BIEC next year, realty market here will see boost

The realty market in Nelamangala Road is set to get a big push as the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has decided to open Nagasandra to the BIEC metro line in 2023. Market analysts say that the metro network is already doing wonders in Nelamangala Road and the extension may further aid realty growth.

A senior BMRCL official said, "The green line extension is likely to become operational from next year."

The project has been hanging in balance for a while for want of land acquisition, but now, things seem to be back on track.

The green line plays a key role in connecting one end of Bengaluru to another, besides providing connectivity to other areas via the Majestic interchange. Going forward, the Electronic City-Bommasandra line is likely to become a branch of the Green line from RV Teachers college.

A realty expert said, "The metro has played a very important role in the development of property. Earlier, unlike other areas of the city, the Nelamangala line didn't have many apartment complexes. However, now there are a host of big property developers that have made their base on this road. The green line was first open till Peenya industries (Peenya first stage) as it had access to the metro depot at Peenya. Then, it was extended till Nagasandra. Now, the work to connect to BIEC is almost in the last stage. It is not just apartments but also properties that people can buy to build their dream homes here. A lot of plots are on offer for buyers at affordable prices."

Meanwhile, the metro has also helped with the increase in office spaces.

City's residential prices to grow

Bengaluru has been highlighted as the second-best market to watch out for among the Asia – Pacific Outlook 2023 (APAC) cities in 2023. In fact, Bengaluru's residential price is expected to grow by up to 5 per cent year-on-year in 2023 – the highest amongst the three leading Indian markets tracked in the report.

According to the Knight Frank report, three Indian cities (Bengaluru, Mumbai, and New Delhi) were tracked among the 24 markets in the APAC region. As far as the commercial market outlook is concerned, Bengaluru's prime office rental is expected to grow in the range of 5 to 7 per cent year-on-year (YoY) in 2023. Bengaluru's warehousing market is expected to register a rental growth in the range of 5 per cent to 7 per cent YoY.

> **"The consistent growth of start-ups and unicorns, coupled with rising income levels makes the city a strong market in the APAC region**

"The consistent growth of start-ups and unicorns, coupled with rising income levels makes the city a strong market in the APAC region. The report further cited that Mumbai's residential price is expected to grow by up to 4 per cent YoY in 2023. The residential price in New Delhi is expected to grow in the range of 3 per cent in 2023," the report stated.

Office Market

The report says that while the market balance is tilted toward the tenant across the APAC region, it remains balanced in the Indian markets.

"The steady performance of the Indian office markets seen in 2022 is expected to sustain in 2023. Bengaluru's prime office rental is expected to grow in the range of 5 -7 pc YoY in 2023, the highest amongst the 24 APAC cities tracked in the report. A comparatively strong economic outlook, potentially increased outsourcing from the west due to cost constraints, depreciating rupee making Indian offices cheaper are expected to drive rent in India in 2023.

In regard to the APAC office outlook, the APAC region is expected to moderate in 2023 as occupiers seek to optimise overheads and generate savings. Key drivers of leasing demand will continue to stem from professional services, finance and co-working sectors, with the inclusion of flight-to-quality requirements. A rapid expansion of co-working footprint in CBDs in line with the shift in preference for flexibility by space users has been observed across the region," the report stated.

— Prakash VL

Safeguard your property from encroachment

With land getting scarce and appreciating in value over time, it is prudent to keep your plot of land protected. Here are ways to protect it from encroachment.

Fence it in

Installing a barbed wire fence can demarcate your land and keep out stray animals. However, make provision for a gate or entrance.

Build a wall

Construct a rudimentary boundary wall around your plot. Put up a notice board declaring/stating that you are the rightful owner of the plot to alert others.

Video surveillance

Video surveillance systems provide a heightened sense of safety and security. You can monitor trespassers remotely via your smartphone. High-tech surveillance systems come with special phone applications that set off an alarm to alert you and inform the local law enforcement when your property is encroached upon.

Hire a caretaker

If your property is located away from the city, it is wise to hire a caretaker and/or a watchman to keep an eye on any trespassers.

The same person can oversee the basic care and maintenance of your land.

Form a network

One of the first tasks to embark on when you buy a plot of land is to connect with other plot owners in the vicinity to form an association and register it at the sub registrar's office. The benefit of this is that, as a collective body, you and other plot owners can take up civic and other issues like safety with the local authorities concerning your land, especially if there's an illegal occupation of the premises. Working in a united manner helps make rightful ownership a smooth one.

Leena Mudbidri, Times Property

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

BREAK OF DAWN

I took these pictures at Nandi Hills. What an iconic sunrise over an ocean of clouds!

The picture was clicked by reader **Pramita Vadavi**

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Pigeon poop problems on Race Course Road

Bird-lovers feeding pigeons is making the road dirty; people may catch infections, say residents

Shreyashi Mukherjee
c-shreyashi.m
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

On Race Course Road opposite Bangalore Turf Club, residents are battling a slightly unique problem. They say that the road is filled with pigeon droppings, courtesy bird-lovers throwing food on the road for the pigeons. As a result, the road is always dirty.

Harsh Agarwal, a resident of the area, said, "The people throw all sorts of food on the street. The food includes rice and pulses and other things. So many pigeons come to eat that and their droppings add to the mess." The residents added that the food thrown on the ground attracts a lot of insects and also emanates a foul smell. Aditi Rao, another resident of the area, said that it also makes the area stink a lot. The food rots there for days.

"Now, the entire footpath is filled with pigeon droppings. It is causing a lot of inconvenience to pedestrians because they can no longer walk there. These things can spread a lot of infection," said Aditya Rao, living in the area.

Something stinks? Blame pigeons on Race Course Road

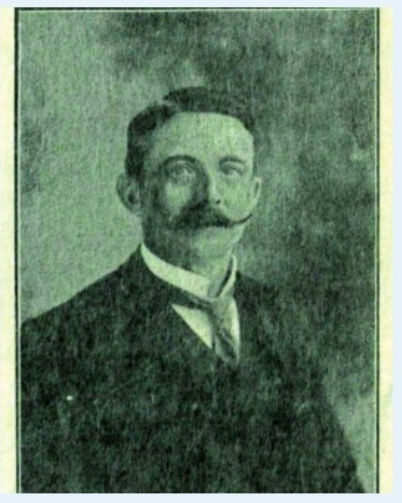
The residents say that the pigeon droppings are a source of a number of infections and diseases.

Another resident who requested to remain anonymous, said, "I have read that pigeon droppings can severely affect the lungs of humans. It can cause Histoplasmosis, which is caused by a fungus that lives in the soil where there is a large number of bird droppings. People can get infected with this by inhaling the fungal spores. The infection can be mild or even life-threatening. One can also get infected with diseases like Cryptococcosis, Psittacosis by breathing the dust caused when cleaning the droppings."

The residents have said that the BBMP officials have done their part by cleaning the areas. But the incident keeps recurring because of the behaviour of the people.

A BBMP official, said, "We had cleaned the area; however, people should also be aware of the problems."

DID YOU KNOW?



Krumbiegel Road, located between the main and the west gates of Lalbagh, is named after German botanist and garden designer Gustav Hermann Krumbiegel. In 1893, he took up a position with the princely state of Baroda as curator of the botanical gardens. In 1907, he took a better offer from Krishnaraja Wodeyar, the ruler of Mysore to serve him and he succeeded John Cameron at the Lalbagh Gardens as an economic botanist and superintendent. He introduced numerous plants and was involved in the design of the Brindavan Gardens which revived the Mughal style of gardening. He was buried at the Methodist cemetery on Hosur Road.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAPTHECHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

Which is your favourite lake(s) in the city and why?

Deepak Chandrashekhar, BM Reader
Agara Lake happens to be one of my favourite spots. It is mesmerising at first sight as early morning risers love walking around the lake like me. The birds and trees add beauty to the park.

Ramya R, BM Reader
Love to visit the Hebbal Lake, a one-stop destination whenever I go to that side of town to visit. It is peaceful and has captivating beauty with different species of migratory birds coming there each year. It is even spread over 150 acre and for walkers and joggers, this is a beautiful and blissful place to visit.

P J Anand, BM Reader
Love to visit the Ulsoor Lake as it is one of the oldest lakes in this region. It is filled with lush green surroundings, small islands and trees. There is boating also available and a lush green walking path for walkers and joggers.

Ganesh Kumar, BM Reader
Nagavara Lake located on the Outer Ring Road is appealing and a unique spot catching the eye of many. It's one of the most clean and well-maintained water bodies in Bengaluru.

Sridhar R, BM Reader
Lalbagh Lake, an abode for dozens of bird species and surrounded picturesquely by trees and are more than a 100 years old. This is a complete haven for bird watchers and nature lovers situated at the heart of the city blessed with nature's bounty.

SPEAK TO US

As we roll along the last month of the year, which has been your happiest moment of '22?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

HEALTH TIP: Reduce your salt intake to 5g per day, equivalent to about one teaspoon

Even people who exercise regularly could be at increased risk for diabetes and heart disease if they spend lots of time sitting in front of computers

YOUR SPINE COULD BE FINE!

Study finds new biomaterial could advance spinal cord injury treatment

A newly developed material which could promote new tissue growth and generation could advance the treatment of spinal cord injury, according to a new study.

Researchers used a new kind of scaffolding material and a unique new electrically conducting polymer composite to promote new tissue growth and generation, said the study.

The team at the University of Limerick (UL) developed new hybrid biomaterials in the form of nanoparticles and building on existing practice in the tissue engineering field, were successfully synthesised to promote repair and regeneration following spinal cord injury, the study said.

"Spinal Cord Injury remains one of the most debilitating traumatic injuries a person can sustain during their lifetime, affecting every aspect of the person's life," explained Maurice N Collins, Associate Professor, University of Limerick.

"The debilitating disorder results in paralysis below the level of injury. As there is currently no widely available treatment, continuous research into this field is crucial to find a treatment to improve the patient's quality of life, with the research field turning towards tissue engineering for novel treatment strategies," said Collins.

"The field of tissue engineering aims to solve the global problem of shortages of donated organs and tissues, in which a new trend has emerged in the form of conductive biomaterials. Cells in the body are affected by electrical stimulation, especially cells of a conductive nature such as cardiac or nerve cells," explained Collins.

The research team describe a growing interest in the use of electroconductive tissue engineered scaffolds that has emerged due to the improved cell growth and proliferation when cells are exposed to a conductive scaffold, the study published in the journal Biomaterials Research said.

"Raising the conductivity of biomaterials to develop such treatment strategies typically centres on the addition of conductive components such as carbon nanotubes or conductive polymers such as PEDOT:PSS, which is a commercially available conductive polymer that has been used to date in the tissue engineering field," explained lead author Aleksandra Serafin.

"Unfortunately, severe limitations persist when using the PEDOT:PSS polymer in biomedical applications. The polymer relies on the PSS component to allow it to be water soluble, but when this material is implanted in the body, it displays poor biocompatibility," said Serafin.

"Researchers used a new kind of scaffolding material and a unique electrically conducting polymer composite to promote new tissue growth"

"This means that upon exposure to this polymer, the body has potential toxic or immunological responses, which are not ideal in an already damaged tissue which we are trying to regenerate. This severely limits which hydrogel components can be successfully incorporated to create conductive scaffolds," said Serafin.

Novel PEDOT nanoparticles (NPs) were developed in the study to overcome this limitation. Synthesis of conductive PEDOT NPs allows for the tailored modification of the surface of the NPs to achieve desired cell response and increasing the variability of which hydrogel components can be incorporated, without the required presence of PSS for water solubility.

In this work, hybrid biomaterials comprised of gelatin and immunomodulatory hyaluronic acid, a material which Professor Collins has developed over many years at UL, was combined with the developed novel PEDOT NPs to create biocompatible electroconductive scaffolds for targeted spinal cord injury repair.

A complete study of the structure, property, and function relationships of these precisely designed scaffolds for optimised performance at the site of injury was carried out, including in-vivo research with rat spinal cord injury models, which was undertaken by Serafin, University of California San Diego, which was a partner on the project.

"The introduction of the PEDOT NPs into the biomaterial increased the conductivity of samples.

"In addition, the mechanical properties of implanted materials should mimic the tissue of interest in tissue engineered strategies, with the developed PEDOT NP scaffolds matching the mechanical values of the native spinal cord," explained the researchers.

Biological response to the developed PEDOT NP scaffolds were studied with stem cells in-vitro and in animal models of spinal cord injury in-vivo. Excellent stem cell attachment and growth on the scaffolds was observed, the study reported.

Testing showed greater axonal cell migration towards the site of spinal cord injury, into which the PEDOT NP scaffold was implanted, as well as lower levels of scarring and inflammation than in the injury model which had no scaffold, according to the study.

Overall, these results show the potential of these materials for spinal cord repair, say the research team.

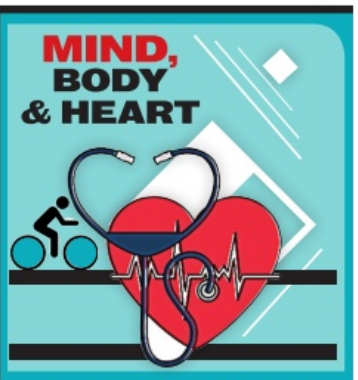
"The impact that spinal cord injury has on a patient's life is not only physical, but also psychological, since it can severely affect the patient's mental health, resulting in increased incidences of depression, stress, or anxiety," explained Serafin.

"Treating spinal injuries will therefore not only allow for the patient to walk or move again but will allow them to live their lives to their full potential, which makes projects such as this one so vital to the research and medical communities.

"In addition, the overall societal impact in providing an effective treatment to spinal cord injuries will lead to a reduction in health care costs associated with treating patients," said the researcher.

"These results offer encouraging prospects for patients and further research into this area is planned," said the lead author.

"Studies have shown that the excitability threshold of motor neurons on the distal end of a spinal cord injury tends to be higher. A future project will further improve the scaffold design and create conductivity gradients in the scaffold, with the conductivity increasing towards the distal end of the lesion to further stimulate neurons to regenerate," said Serafin. **PTI**



All problems solved

Dear Coleen

I've been with my partner on and off for four years. I'm 28 and she's 24. She's a compulsive liar and right from the start she was cheating on me with an ex-boyfriend, but won't admit to it even though I've read the messages on her phone. During lockdown we ended the relationship, but met up and she got pregnant.
I agreed to give it a go, as I've always wanted to settle down and have a family. Things seemed to be going well until earlier this year when I noticed she was off with me. She works in a restaurant and began coming home late. Then I saw a message her friend sent her, asking why she's upset about things with me if she's been doing stuff with another guy.
I confronted her and she denied it at first, then started changing her story, saying a drunk guy tried to kiss her one night at work, but I have a gut feeling there's more to it. Now she's pregnant again, just as it was getting too much for me and I was thinking of leaving. I don't believe she'll change and I'm just prolonging the agony, waiting for another baby to arrive.

COLEEN SAYS

I think your last sentence says it all. She's young and I don't think she's ready to settle down and commit to you – or anyone else for that matter. It doesn't sound as if she knows what she wants from her life.
The most important thing now is to focus on being the best dad you can be. I think it's very hard to maintain the relationship when she's not being truthful about how she feels and what she's up to, and not willing to commit to working through the issues. Right now, it's not a positive environment to bring your kids up in, so you have to think what is best for your kids. That might be going your separate ways and making a commitment to co-parent.
—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

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CHANGE OF NAME

"I, MANISH KAMALKISHOR DAGA R/O 5TH-502 ASPIRA AXIS CAPSTONE APT, KOTTHANUR DINNE MN RD, JP NAGAR, BLR -78 hereby declare that my minor son's correct name Soham Daga is entered in all the records whereas in Passport his name has been by oversight entered as Soham Manish Daga. I further declare that both the names pertain to him only. Hence this affidavit dt.01.12.2022 to produce before the concerned authorities, sworn before Notary D.K.RAMESHAPPA, B'luru"

I, Manish Kamalkishor Daga R/o 5th-502 Aspira Axis Capstone Apt, Kotthanur Dinne Mn Rd, Jp Nagar 8th Phase, Bengaluru-560078 have changed my minor son's name from Soham Manish Daga to Soham Daga for all purposes.

I Hemamalini Swamy Rao W/O, Birur Ramachandra Swamy Rao R/o 14/1, Narayana Rao Layout, 5th Cross, Hoskerehalli, Bsk 3rd Stage, Bengaluru - 560085 have changed my name to Hemamalini Subramanya Karnic for all purposes.

I, BHAVYA, W/o Ankit Gupta R/o No.170301, ShriRam Chirping Woods, Tower 17, 12th Main, Shubh Enclave, Harlur HSR Layout, Bengaluru-560102 have changed my name from BHAVYA to BHAVYA JINDAL vide affidavit dated 01.12.2022 sworn before notary Rajanna S.M, Bengaluru.

I, Yunus Shariff S/o Yusuf Sharief M R/o A-1605 , Bhartiya city Nikoo Homes-2 , Thanisandra Main Road B'lore-560064 have changed my name to Younus Sharief

I, Shiva Prakash M have changed my name from Shiva Prakasha M born on 12/05/1970 residing at # 402 SLV Heights no 1097 6th crs Shree Ananthanagar Phase 2 Electronic City, Blr 560100 vide affidavit dated 01.12.22 at Blr.

I VIJAYAMAHANTESH ADAPPA S/o. GANGANAGOUDA aged about 43 Years, residing at 11-A, Vrindavana, 3rd Cross, Jayanthinagar Ext., Horamavu, Bengaluru - 560043 has changed my Name from VIJAYAMAHANTESH ADAPPA to VIJAYAMAHANTESH GANGANAGOUDA and father's name from GANGANAGOUDA to ADAPPA GANGANAGOUDAR vide Affidavit Number IN-KA949442204425 97U dated 25-Nov-2022 before Notary

I, Sarath P s/o Sasidharan J. R/o 201,Vinayaka Nilaya,16th c Cross, Pai layout, Benniganahalli,B'luru-560016 have changed my name to SHARATH PATHIYARVEED affidavit Dt. 01/12/2022 notary Ganesh Gowda M.V, B'luru

I Harishwini S/O, Chandregowda Dk R/o 03, Dandiganahalli, Harohalli Post, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District-562135 have changed my name to Harishwini DC

I, Sameera W/o Younus Sharief R/o A-1605 , Bhartiya city Nikoo Homes-2 , Thanisandra Main Road B'lore-560064 have changed my name to Sameera Sharief.

I, Ruksar Banu W/o Mohammed Idris Sharief R/o 343/F , 3rd Floor , Azmath Building ,2nd Main Road , 4th Blk , 1st stage , HBR Layout B'lore-560043 have changed my name to Ruksar Sharief

I M Mukund S/O, Murali Raj Iyengar R/o Mythri Enclave Flat No 107 4th Floor Naidu Layout Chikkalasandra Bengaluru -560061 have changed my name to Mukund Murali for all purposes.

I, Chandramohan have changed my daughter name from Subhiksha to Subhiksha Chandramohan born on 10/11/2011 residing at F2 Sai Residency Apt Hoodi, Kr Puram, Blr 36 vide affidavit dated 01.12.22 at Blr.

I, Mohammed Idris Shariff S/o Yusuf Shariff R/o 343/F , 3rd Flr , Azmath Building ,2nd Main Road , 4th Blk , 1st stage , HBR Layout B'lore-560043 have changed my name to Mohammed Idris Sharief

I Chandregowda K S/O, Krishnappa D V R/o 03, Dandiganahalli, Harohalli Post, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District- 562135 have changed my name to Chandregowda D K

BY this deed I, the undersigned Jayalakshmi W/o Krishnamurthy Kaniyar Sampathiyengar aged about 64 years and resident of 203, Sabarmati Enclave, 4th Main, NRI Layout, Kalkere, Ramamurthynagar, B'luru-560016 Karnataka have changed my name to Jayalakshmi Krishnamurthy vide affidavit dt:02/12/2022 sworn before notary Uday Kumar K, B'luru.

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Mysuru to protect its GI-tagged products

Officials rush to encourage production of jasmine, banana and betel leaves

There is great demand for Mysuru jasmine, but growers hesitant due to heavy input costs and poor output

The Mysuru Zilla Panchayat (ZP) has stepped up efforts to protect products that come with the Geographical Indicator (GI) tag. Currently, the GI tagged products are Mysuru jasmine, Nanjangud Rasabale (banana) and Mysuru betel leaves. Though the products are in great demand, their cultivation has dropped, thereby decreasing supply. Hence, panchayat officials are now taking steps to increase their production.

"We are encouraging farmers to take up cultivation under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). While there is good demand for bananas and jasmine, there are hardly any takers for the betel leaves. So, no one is coming forward to grow them," said BR Poornima, Chief Executive Officer, ZP.

"We are trying our best to convince the farmers to take up the cultivation of betel leaves. There is a need to conserve these three products for the next generation," she added.

However, the farmers say that though jasmine, banana and betel leaves are quite popular, they are discouraged from cultivating them due to the poor output and the heavy expenses involved.

Now, the Zilla Panchayat has decided to create awareness. An area of 25 acres has been earmarked for the cultivation of these products.

Nanjangud, a tourist hub

The state government is planning to develop Nanjangud as a spiritual and tourist centre. Being one of the prominent tourist spots in the state, its proximity to Mysuru and a four-lane highway connecting the two places has made Nanjangud a part of Mysuru travel itinerary.

> **"While there is good demand for bananas and jasmine, there are hardly any takers for the betel leaves**
>
> – BR Poornima, CEO ZP

"In the coming days, Nanjangud, popularly known as 'Dakshin Kashi' will be developed as a spiritual and tourism centre," said Basavaraj S Bommai, Chief Minister of Karnataka. Srinivasa Prasad, Member of Parliament from Chamarajanagar, has urged the CM to construct more lodges and dormitories to accommodate the ever increasing number of tourists.

— Prakash VL

Voter data intact in Mysuru: DC

After allegations were made about tampering of voter data, the Mysuru district administration said that there was no malpractice in deletion of voters names from the list. According to KV Rajendra, Deputy Commissioner (DC), there has been no purposeful deletion of voters. However, the deletion has taken place in case of duplication, death or relocation. "1, 20,786 voters have been deleted from the electoral list. Of the deletions, 20,440 names have been reduced as they are dead. Around 16,993 people have relocated to different places, therefore their names are left out; 2,227 were repeaters and 80,930 people were duplicate names or had used the same photographs," he said. He added that if any one's name was left out, they can reach out to Booth Level Officer, Assistant Revenue Officer, tahsildar or the DC.

Asian football has come of age

Japan stunned Spain 2-1 to storm into the pre-quarterfinals of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar and in the bargain, sent mighty Germany packing on goal difference.

For the Asian nations in the fray have produced some unbelievably dramatic results.

Who would ever have thought that two-time champions Argentina, led by Lionel Messi, would lose to Saudi Arabia 1-2? Who would ever have thought Japan would stun Germany 2-1? Or that Iran, after losing 2-6 to England, would stage a miraculous comeback and defeat Wales 2-0? Or that Korea Republic (South Korea) would hold Uruguay goalless? Or Australia, now affiliated to the Asian Football Confederation, would defeat Tunisia 1-0?

SPORTS

Now Japan has shocked Spain 2-1. The result saw Germany crash out of the tournament in the first round. Spain were pushed to the second spot and stayed alive though. Australia downed Denmark 1-0. Japan and Australia are in the pre-quarterfinals now and will be the cynosure of the continent. Well, these results did come about to the immense joy of all Asians watching the World Cup in Qatar or on television wherever they could.

It was way back in 1966 that North Korea produced the first sparks for Asian soccer when they defeated Italy and entered the quarter-finals of the World Cup in England. They led Portugal 3-0 before the legendary Eusebio inspired his nation to a 5-3 victory eventually.

South Korea went one better in 2002 when they were the joint hosts with Japan. The Taeguk Warriors, as they are called, stormed into the semi-finals after sending nations like Portugal, Poland and Italy packing before losing 0-1 to Germany. These two were the first Asian nations to advance thus far in the World Cup.

Of course, India is the first Asian team to enter the semi-finals of the Olympic Games football tournament as they made the grade in 1956 in Melbourne. That was an era when there wasn't much difference between Olympic Games and World Cup soccer. Japan, South Korea, Saudi Arabia have recorded wins over stronger nations in different World Cup events but so many Asian countries rising so high together was unheard of before the Qatar World Cup.

Whether these teams make it to the knockout rounds or not remains to be seen. In any case, their achievements had propelled Asia into higher orbits of World soccer.

It was not just a matter of scoring a freak goal and hanging on for dear life by 'parking the bus' inside the penalty area. Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Japan, Iran have all matched their more famous rivals move for move. The displays of all the Asian nations have proven one thing: Asian soccer has come of age. **— SS Shreekumar**

The Japanese team which shocked Spain 2-1 to enter the knock-out stage

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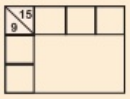
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

A local historical society has leased a mansion to use as a museum. The original lease was 99 years. When how much time was left on the lease, the curator replied: "two-thirds of the time past is equal to four fifths of the time to come". How much time was left on the lease?

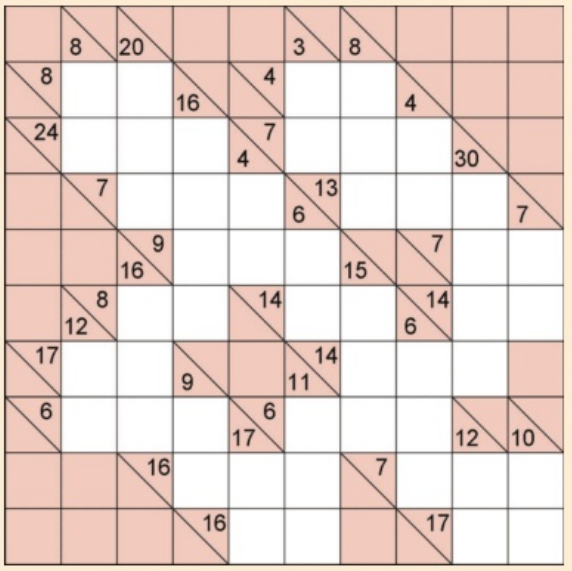
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

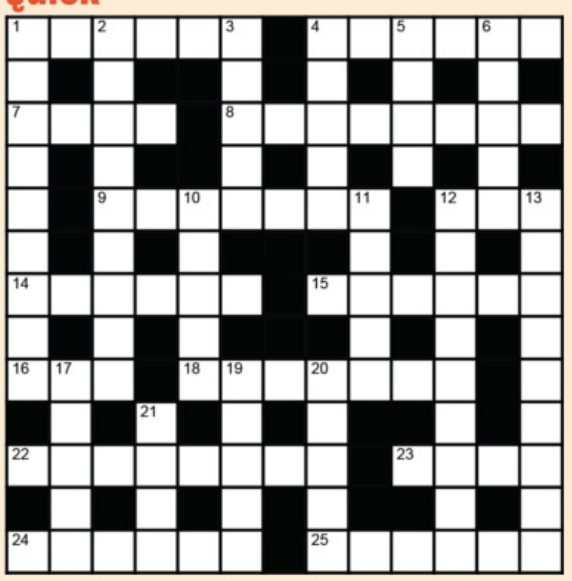


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Deprived, perhaps of reason (6)
4 The State Archaeological ____ is located in Cubbon Park (6)
7 Has (4)
8 D-Day landing site (8)
9 Conscience-stricken (7)
12 Little Edward (3)
14 Inquiring of (6)
15 Mental keenness (6)
16 Flit about (3)
18 Deadlock; stalemate (7)
22 Tiny piece of matter? (8)
23 Indian goddess (4)
24 Meal (6)
25 An old inn (6)

DOWN

1 Australian natives' throwing missile (9)
2 Pillaged or looted (9)
3 Polynesian kingdom (5)
4 Nobel laureate ___ Curie (5)
5 Actor Connery (4)
6 Unwarranted; excessive (5)
10 City in Vietnam (5)
11 Ships floors (5)
12 Moderate or self-restrained? (9)
13 Yellow flower (9)
17 Came up (5)
19 Shed feathers (5)
20 Completely skilled (5)
21 Zeus' wife (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: O EQUALS U

UWFMI BSWG ITD YWJIAFL SGH ITDG ZSCD ITD XDMI OMD AU WI LAO JSG.

Linemaro

Your posture is perfect. Do you work out?

Mindchow

Crying is blackmail

Joke of the day

If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried

Loop

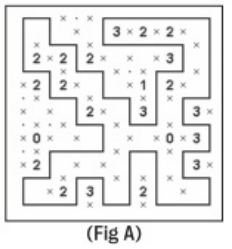
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

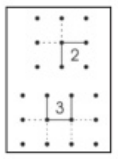
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

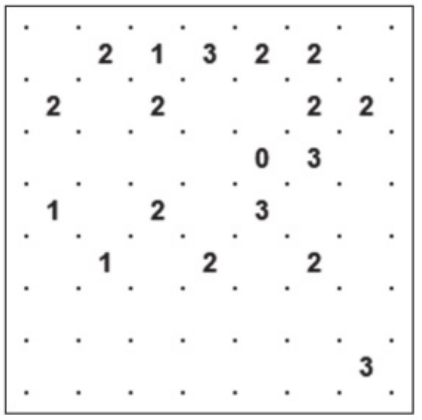
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



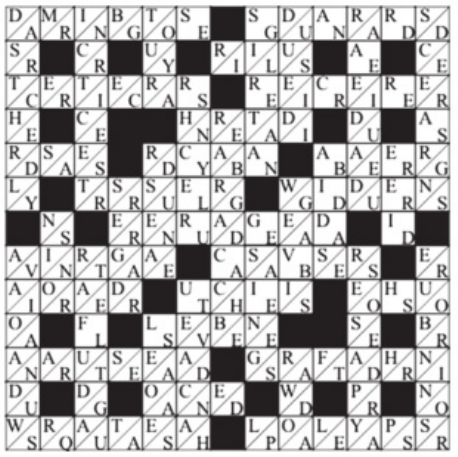
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



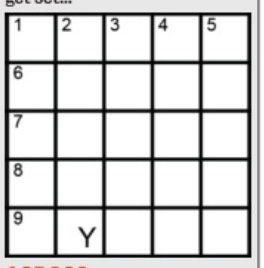
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Acorn; 6 La Lau; 7 LAN us; 8 To Cur; 9 Sophy

DOWN

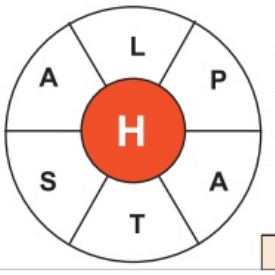
1 Nucha; 2 Loyal; 3 Up urn (3-2); 4 Carol; 5 A toss

Mensapuzzle

What number should replace the question mark?

1, 31, 59, 85, 109, ?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 07 Outstanding

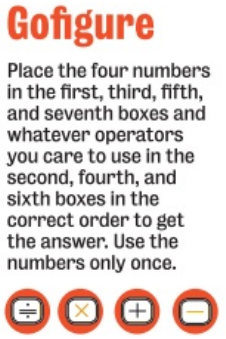
SudokuChallenge

5		2	4		3	9		6
	1						3	
9			5		6			1
3				5				7
	9						4	
4				6				8
8			7		1			4
	3						8	
7		6	9		8	1		2

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

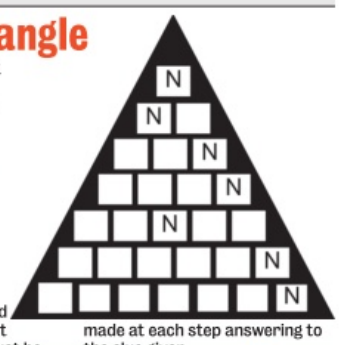
Differences: 1. Pocket on golf bag is lower. 2. Back of chair is different. 3. Strap is different. 4. Glasses are missing. 5. Cap is larger. 6. Sign is smaller.

Riddler

Unscramble the letters ABEEFIJKLMMNPRSUXY to find: an agency a body part a holiday a measurement a month

Alpha triangle

1 Direction in short
2 Nah
3 Charged particle
4 Cent or sou
5 Pick-me-up
6 Lights! Camera!
7 Legend



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

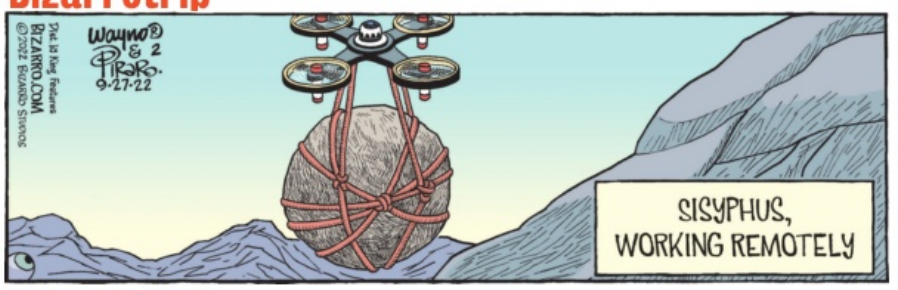
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

WELL, I'LL BE! SOME PALEFACE LOST HIS GUITAR!
STRUM
9-16
I'LL BET THAT EXPLAINS WHY WE INDIANS SELDOM PLAY A GUITAR
Yates Casson

Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

AND OFF TO THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE THEY GO.
I HEARD THEY GOT CAUGHT WHILE TRYING TO GRAB ALL THEIR MONEY.
THEY'RE LOOKING AT A SIX-WEEK SUSPENSION, I'M SURE OF IT.
FOR ILLEGAL GAMBLING AT A MIDDLE SCHOOL, THAT'S NOT BAD.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2022 ANDREWS MCMEEL
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Crankshaft

THIS IS ALL VERY EXCITING...
BUT I THINK WE'RE GOING TO NEED SOME TIME TO...
WE ACCEPT!
AND SHE SAID SHE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.
BATIUK & DAVIS
9-23

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today may be good for your professional life. This is a time when you may be busy on the job front. You may become passionate towards your work, which may give you mental tiredness. You may not be able to reach on time in family or social get-togethers. Your spouse may support you to maintain domestic harmony. Lovebirds may expect to take important decisions in terms of marriage. Jobseekers may hear good news in terms of suitable work.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you are blessed by the moon, which will make you happy. You may be busy at work. You are likely to increase your network as well. With the help of elders, you will implement new plans in your work for getting success in the near future. You may plan to visit some close relatives or plan a party with friends.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today there may be some dull feelings inside you, which can make you sensitive and emotional. You may have some health-related issues too. It is advised to avoid rash driving. You are advised to keep an eye on hidden enemies and opponents as you might be a victim of conspiracy. It is advised for love birds to keep patience and avoid arguments on worthless topics.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may try to analyse yourself and figure out your mistakes. Self-analysis will boost confidence at work. In partnerships, disputed matters are likely to be resolved. Warmth with your spouse is likely to be improved. Students may take quick decisions in terms of their career. Singles may find a good match.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, with the blessings of the moon, you may have happiness around you. Projects which were stopped will now come on track. Your relationship with your spouse may be improved. You may perform well at work. Singles are likely to find their soulmate. Lovebirds can make plans to convert the relationship into marriage. You may get promotions in your job. Job seekers may find a good job.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, with the help of elders, you may become confident. Your working efficiency may be increased. You can start new innovations in terms of business and work. You are likely to have smart gains after a minor investment. Opponents and rivals are now under control. You may help some needy people by giving money. You may buy some creative items for your house.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today situations are mixed. You may be busy with your children. You may expect some short trips related to their academics. You will also enjoy your romantic moments. Couples may hear good news in terms of childbirth. You may plan to go for outings with your family and friends. Those in jobs may plan for higher education to increase their skill set.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today may be disappointing for you. You may be impatient and may not be able to focus towards your goals. Investments in fixed assets are advised to be postponed for a while. It is advised to take care of your parents' health.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may feel energetic and courageous. You are likely to buy some important household items for your home or office. Your inner strength is likely to be helpful to complete your projects before the deadline. Disputes with siblings are likely to be resolved. There may be some short trips related to work, which will increase your network.

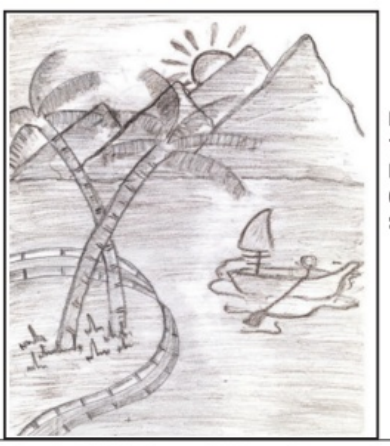
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, time is on your side. You may be able to control your expenditure. Your savings are likely to be increased. You may be busy at home. You may bring some artefacts for your home too. You can plan to renovate your office. There is an atmosphere of joy and happiness in the family. Lovebirds may plan to get married. Singles may find their soulmate.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, things are under control. You may feel some new energy, which will give you confidence. You may find a new way to find success at work. Your parental business may reach new heights. Chronic illnesses are likely to be cured. You may also plan for an overseas trip.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today there may be some dullness in you, which can make you upset and impatient. You are likely to face some health-related issues. It is advised to avoid rash driving and adventure tours. You are advised to keep an eye on hidden enemies and opponents as you might be a victim of conspiracy. You should avoid making any arguments.

KIDZONE

Sai Naveen N, 13 Years, Indiranagar Cambridge School



K Harshitha, 13 Years, Indiranagar Cambridge School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
2/3(X)=4/5(99-X)
2X/3=(396-4X)/5
10X=1188-12X
22X=1188
X=1188/22=54
99-54=45 years

RIDDLER
FBI, Knee, X-mas, July, RPM

BULL'S EYE
alpha, ASPHALT, hatt, hasp, lash, lath, path

FAST FIVE

H	Y	P	O	S
C	O	U	R	T
U	L	N	A	S
A	L	U	L	A
N	A	R	C	O

STRIKE OUT

S	Q	U	A	S	H	■	P	O	L	Y	P	S	■	■
D	■	G	■	A	C	E	■	D	■	R	■	N	■	■
N	A	U	S	E	A	■	S	A	F	A	R	I	■	■
A	■	L	■	S	E	E	N	■	■	S	■	B	■	■
I	R	E	D	■	T	H	I	S	■	O	H	O	■	■
V	I	T	A	E	■	C	A	B	E	R	■	R	■	■
■	S	■	E	N	R	A	G	E	D	■	D	■	■	■
Y	■	T	R	U	E	R	■	W	I	D	E	S	■	■
R	A	S	■	R	Y	A	N	■	B	E	R	G	■	■
T	R	I	E	R	S	■	E	E	R	I	E	R	■	■
E	■	■	H	E	A	D	■	D	■	■	■	A	■	■
R	A	C	■	L	S	■	A	■	C	■	■	C	■	■
A	M	I	G	O	S	■	G	U	A	R	D	S	■	■

QUICK

R	E	P	A	S	T	■	T	A	V	E	R	N	■	■
S	■	R	■	L	■	P	■	T	■	O	■	■	■	■
M	O	L	E	C	U	L	E	■	K	A	L	I	■	■
■	L	■	C	■	■	E	■	■	T	■	■	■	■	■
G	A	D	■	I	M	P	A	S	S	E	■	■	■	■
N	■	E	■	O	■	K	■	P	■	D	■	■	■	■
A	S	K	I	N	G	■	A	C	U	M	E	N	■	■
R	■	C	■	A	■	E	■	E	■	A	■	■	■	■
E	A	S	H	A	M	E	D	■	T	E	D	■	■	■
M	■	S	■	G	■	I	■	N	■	U	■	■	■	■
O	W	N	S	■	N	O	R	M	A	N	D	Y	■	■
O	■	A	■	O	■	A	■	E	■	N	■	■	■	■
B	E	R	E	F	T	■	M	U	S	E	U	M	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
131: add 30, 28, 26, 24, 22

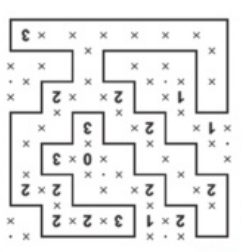
QUOTE UNCODE
First gain the victory and then make the best use of it you can.

SUDOKU

7	4	6	9	3	8	1	5	2
2	3	1	6	4	5	7	8	9
8	5	9	7	2	1	3	6	4
4	2	7	3	6	9	5	1	8
1	9	5	8	7	2	6	4	3
3	6	8	1	5	4	2	9	7
9	7	3	5	8	6	4	2	1
6	1	4	2	9	7	8	3	5
5	8	2	4	1	3	9	7	6

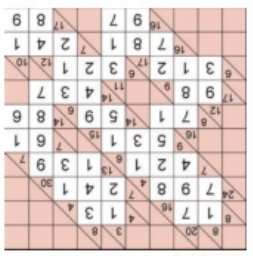
ALPHA TRIANGLE
N, No, Ion, Coin, Tonic, Action, Caption.

LOOP



GO FIGURE
Easy
8 – 2 – 3 x 1 = 3
Medium
5 / 5 – 4 + 4 = 1
Hard
3 x 3 + 3 + 7 = 19

KAKURO



Volume No 15, Issue No 28 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/22411 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018 and printed by him at Fourth Estate Ltd, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, Bommasandra Industrial Area, Hosur Road, Bengaluru 560099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru 560 018. Email : mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon – responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

 # Globe-trotter film
Bollywood director Siddharth Anand on Friday revealed that his upcoming action thriller film 'Pathaan' was shot in 8 different countries to give the audience a visual spectacle.

Surprise, surprise

Fans think Deepika had dropped hints earlier about cameo in hubby's film

Deepika Padukone's cameo in hubby Ranveer Singh's 'Cirkus', may have been Bollywood's best-kept secret. Fans and the internet were in for a surprise when the actress added a pop of colour and funk to the movie trailer with her special dance sequence.

While director Rohit Shetty may have managed to keep the dance number a surprise, fans think that the actress may have dropped a big hint about her cameo when she appeared at the airport on Thursday night.

A viral video featuring the actress arriving at the Mumbai airport has been doing the rounds online where a paparazzi asked her how she liked the Cirkus trailer. To that question, the actress smiled widely and winked at the cameras. "guyssss the wink for #CirkusTrailer," a fan wrote on Twitter.

'Cirkus' marks Deepika's on-screen reunion with her husband Ranveer after their featured together in the Kabir Khan film '83.

—ETimes

The most beautiful feeling

Happily married to the dream girl of his life, actor and national crush Vicky Kaushal has explained how love evolves a person into becoming better professionally and personally. He minces no words when he says being with that special one is the most beautiful feeling in the world.

Vicky married his lady love Katrina Kaif in December 2021 after dating for almost over three years. How does love evolve a person?

Lover boy Vicky told IANS in a conversation: "I think if you're with the right person who really gives you peace and happiness in your heart and mind it just makes you the best version of yourself and that best version of yourself is personally professionally anywhere you go it creates positive vibes and create positive energy and you give out the best that you have because you know you are with the right person and that peace of mind and happiness is here there in every cell body."

The 34-year-old star added: "I think definitely being with that person is the most beautiful feeling in the world and being in love is the most beautiful feeling in the world and that only can bring out the best in you." — IANS

ED records Nora's statement

The Enforcement Directorate on Friday recorded the statement of actor Nora Fatehi for more than five hours as part of an ongoing money-laundering probe against alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekhar and his associates, official sources said.

Fatehi, 30, has been questioned by the federal agency in the case a few times in the past. The Canadian-born artiste came to India about seven to eight years ago to work in the Hindi film industry.

Sources said the actor, who featured in popular Bollywood dance numbers such as 'Naach Meri Rani' and 'Kamariya', will be questioned about some more issues related to Chandrashekhar.

Her statement was being recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and she left the ED office in central Delhi after spending over five hours. — PTI

She's the boss

All the times when Vidya Balan was unapologetically bold and a complete boss babe

Watch this story come alive by pointing your phone camera at the QR code

Dreary tale of drug addiction

DHARANI MANDALA MADHYADOLAGE
3 RATING ★★★☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Sridhar Shikaripura
- **ACTORS** Naveen Shankar, Aishani Shetty, Yash Shetty, Siddu Moolimani, Bala Rajwadi
- **Duration** 149 minutes
- **Certification** U/A

The movie begins with a drunk youngster threatening police officers and others with a pistol snatched from a police sub-inspector. He presses the trigger to shoot the inspector but a senior citizen is injured in the shootout. At this juncture, the director takes us to a flashback to introduce us to the youngster in question -- Parachute (Siddu Moolimani), a drug addict-cum-peddler. The next scene is Shreya (Aishani Shetty), who has drug addiction issues, attacking Vinay for talking ill of her lover Adi (Naveen Shankar).

The director shows how Adi fell in love with Shreya and how she became addicted to drugs.

Then we meet Shivu (Yash Shetty), an automobile mechanic who is leading a happy life in Bengaluru. It so happens that Shivu is commuting in a vehicle used to transport drugs to the bus stop receive his parents. Later, the director introduces a foster father (Kari Subbu) who sells his daughter to Desai (Mohan Juneja), a pimp, who supplies girls to Antony (Bala Rajwadi), a drug-peddler. What happens when Antony's men kidnap Shreya -- will Aadi and Shreya meet again -- what happens to the drug mafia -- these are questions the film will answer.

Though the director tries hard to impress upon the audience the ill-effects of drugs, the narration becomes sluggish at times. He has selected a good subject but failed to convey the message in an engaging manner. The story is about the incidents that took place in Bengaluru but some of the scenes, like when a senior citizen with bullet injuries walks around freely to a government doctor, who refuses to treat him and another scene in which an injured person is being taken in an auto rickshaw instead of an ambulance, seem incongruous. Naveen Shankar looks good in action scenes but has to go a long way to establish himself as an artiste. Aishani has done a good job in the role of an addict. Yash Shetty, as a concerned son, has done well too. A few dialogues between two characters – played by Prakash Thuminad and Nithreesh - provide the much-needed break to audiences. Siddu has acted well.

The drawback of the movie is its duration and number of characters that struggle for screen space. It seems the director has added as many characters as possible without bothering about the plight of the audiences who have to spend their valuable time and money to watch this movie. —Y Maheswara Reddy